

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 EB-11 AID-20 IO-12 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 NIC-01 NEA-10 RSR-01 /165 W
----- 045852

R 121015 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 821

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PFOR ET SO OAU

SUBJ: RETURN OF SOMALI MISSIONS TO OAU STATES

1. SUMMARY: DURING LATE MARCH AND APRIL, GSDR SENT THREE SEPARATE MISSIONS WHICH VISITED THIRTY- TWO AFRICAN STATES TO PRESENT SOMALI CONCERNS OVER BORDER PROBLEMS WITH ETHIOPIA. END SUMMARY.

2. COL. ALI MATTAN, SRC MEMBER AND PRESIDNTIAL ADVISER ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, ATTENDED AFRICAN EEC ASSOCIATE STATES MEETING IN KINSHASA AND THEN VISITED CONGO, GABON, BURUNDI, AND RWANDA.

3. VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION, COL. ISMAIL ALI ABOKER, SPENT FIVE WEEKS ON TRIP WHICH INCLUDED CONSULTATION ON TANZANIA/ UGANDA DISPUTE IN DAR ES SALAAM, KAMPALA AND NAIROBI, AND THEN COVERED STOPS IN ZAMBIA, TOGO, DAHOMEY, NIGERIA, GHANA, IVORY COAST, LIBERIA, AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA.

4. FOREIGN MINISTER OMAR ARTEH CONCENTRATED ON NORTHERN AND NORTHWEST AFRICA. AFTER ATTENDING ISLAMIC FOREIGN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN BENGHAZI, HIS SIX- WEEK TRIP INCLUDED OFFICIAL VISITS TO EGYPT, TUNISIA, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, MAURITANIA, SENEGAL, GAMBIA, GUINEA, SIERRA LEONE, MALI, UPPER VOLTA, NIGER, CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC, CHAD, AND SUDAN. ON HIS RETURN TO MOGADISCIO ON MAY 5, OMAR ARTEH SAID THAT HE HAD ALSO MADE UNPLANNED UNOFFICIAL VISIT TO PARIS (MOG 0625) BECAUSE OF LACK OF DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN AFRICAN FRANCOPHONE CAPITALS.

5. WHILE ALI MATTAN, ISMAIL AND OMAR ARTEH TRAVEL INCLUDED CONFERENCES WHICH GSDR WISHED TO ATTEND, MAJOR PURPOSE THEIR TRIPS WAS TO BRING PRESSURE ON ETHIOPIA. WE BELIEVE SUCH PRESSURE HAD TWO INTERLINKED THEMES: A) TO LABEL ETHIOPIA AS AN AUTOCRATIC, IMPERIALIST- SUPPORTED AGGRESSOR AGAINST SOMALIA (FOR BLACK, NON- MUSLIM AFRICAN AUDIENCE), AND B) TO CHARGE THAT BECAUSE ETHIOPIA CLOSELY LINKED TO ISRAEL, IT MUST NOT HEADQUARTER THE OAU (FOR MUSLIM AFRICA). COL. ISMAIL AND ALI MATTAN PLUGGED THE FIRST THEME; OMAR ARTEH THE SECOND. SOMALI TRAVELERS HAVE BEEN CAREFUL NOT TO SAY THIS WHEN THEY RETURN, BUT TO DESCRIBE THE TRIPS AS DISCUSSIONS OF " AFRICAN UNITY AND THE COMMON STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIALISTS" (COL. ISMAIL), OR " COUNTERING COLONIALISTS' MACHINATIONS IN IGNITING STRIFE AMONG AFRICANS" (OMAR ARTEH).

6. WE HAVE LITTLE INFORMATION ON HOW THE SOMALIS WERE RECEIVED, BUT SUSPECT THAT VERY FEW AFRICAN PROMISES OF SPECIFIC BACKING FOR SOMALIA IN ITS QUARREL WITH ETHIOPIA WERE GARNERED. PRESENT MOG VISIT OF GUINEAN DELEGATION, HOWEVER, MAY WELL BE HARBINGER OF OTHER RETURN VISITS BY STATES SOMALIS VISITED AND URGED TO HAVE THEIR OAU DELEGATIONS " STOP BY" EN ROUTE TO ADDIS.
CROMWELL

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